

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. By this Amendment claims 1 and 5 are amended.

The attached Appendix includes a marked-up copy of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1,121)(c)(1)(ii)).

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamato (U.S. Patent No. 5,222,319) and further in view of Gieselman (U.S. Patent No. 4,654,996). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention comprises a reel seat for a fishing rod with, among other elements, a trigger protruding from the lower portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body at a fixed position and angle, the trigger having a front surface, the front surface of the trigger sloping substantially toward a downward and backward direction relative to a rear end of the lower portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body and having a length such that at least two of an average size adult user's fingers can be placed thereon, wherein a center axis of the trigger is non-perpendicular with respect to a center axis of the fishing rod body; and a rear body extending along the same axis as the fishing pole, as recited in claim 1. Claim 5 contains similar but alternative language directed to the same features.

The Office Action admits that Yamato does not disclose the trigger sloping substantially toward the downward and backward direction... and having a length such that at least 2 of average adult-sized user's fingers can be placed thereon (page 2, lines 10-13 of the Office Action), as substantially recited in claims 1 and 5.

Yamato does not disclose a rear body extending along the same axis as a fishing pole. As can be seen in Figures 1 and 4 of Yamato, the grip 3 is mounted rearwardly of the reel on a portion of the rod. However, it has a downward slope to accommodate the user's hand, that

is the remaining three fingers of the hand as the index finger is engaged with trigger 2. Doing so compensates for the gap S shown in Applicant's Figures 11B and 13, thereby providing a solution to that problem discussed by Applicant with respect to the related art. Thus, the Yamoto rear body, while may be mounted on the axis of the fishing pole, does not extend along that axis, as it has a sloped orientation.

Applicant asserts that Gieselman does not disclose or suggest a reel seat for a fishing rod with a rear body extending along the same axis along the fishing pole, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 5. Gieselman, instead, teaches a fishing rod where the butt extension extends rearwards and is positioned upwards, i.e., offset at a higher position, from the longitudinal axis of the fishing pole, although parallel to the axis (col 4, lines 1-6; col. 2, lines 37-39). Thus, Gieselman does not teach a fishing rod with a rear body extending along the same axis as the fishing pole. Gieselman teaches away from a rear body extending along the same axis because Gieselman's motivation is to provide a fishing rod including a butt extension and a pistol grip located relative to each other so that the pistol grip can be used without interference from the butt extension (col. 2, lines 40-44).

Furthermore, the reel seat disclosed in the claimed invention is structurally symmetric (Figs. 10a, 10b) and can hence be used by both hands. In contrast to the claimed invention, the reel seat taught in Gieselman is provided with an ovately convex surface, and a convex shoulder is located above the convex surface along the right-hand side of the reel seat, providing a convenient surface against which the inside of the index finger of the fisherman's right hand can rest (col. 4, lines 28-33). Gieselman's reel seat is designed to be used by the fisherman's right hand only, not by either hand.

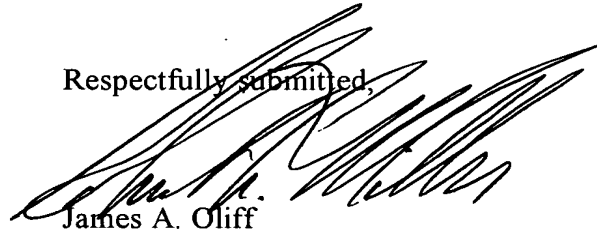
Thus, one would not be motivated to combine Gieselman with Yamoto. Both Gieselman and Yamoto provide specialized extensions or rear bodies to facilitate use of the rod, neither of which corresponds to Applicant's claimed invention. There is nothing to

suggest picking and choosing just one aspect of Gieselman to combine with Yamoto, as there is nothing in either reference that suggests such a modification to Yamoto given Yamoto's specialized grip extending behind the trigger, i.e., in a generally downwardly and rearwardly direction. Thus, the combination is inappropriate, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made out and it is requested that the rejection of claims 1-5 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Appendix

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>

APPENDIX

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

1. (~~Three~~Four Times Amended) A reel seat for a fishing rod, that includes a fishing rod body ~~extending in a downward and backward direction~~, comprising:

an oblong pipe-shaped body through which the fishing rod body passes, the oblong pipe-shaped body defining a circumferential surface with a top portion and a lower portion;

a ~~reel foot~~;

a reel foot placing surface formed on the top portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body that receives a reel foot;

a movable front hood and a fixed rear hood, that attach the reel foot to the reel foot placing surface; ~~and~~

a trigger protruding from the lower portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body at a fixed position and angle, the trigger having a front surface, the front surface of the trigger sloping substantially toward ~~the~~a downward and backward direction relative to a rear end of the lower portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body and having a length such that at least two of an average size adult user's fingers can be placed thereon,

~~—wherein a center axis of the trigger is non-perpendicular with respect to a center axis of the fishing rod body;~~ and

a rear body extending along the same axis as the fishing pole.

5. (~~Three~~Four Times Amended) A fishing rod, comprising:

a fishing rod body ~~extending in a downward and backward direction~~, on which line guides are mounted;

a reel seat;

a handle that extends backward from a position of the reel seat; and

a trigger protruding from a position opposite to a reel foot placing surface at a fixed position and angle, the trigger having a front surface, the front surface of the trigger sloping substantially downward and backward relative to a rear end of a lower portion of the reel seat and having a length such that at least two of an average size adult user's fingers can be placed thereon, _

_____wherein a center axis of the trigger is non-perpendicular with respect to a center axis of the fishing rod body; and

_____ a rear body extending along the same axis as the fishing pole.